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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL  
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

MEMORANDUM

OK FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO: Texas House of Representatives

FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam

DATE: April 30, 2010

SUBJECT: DOE Announces \$28 Million to Support State Efforts to Increase Energy Retrofits and Develop State Energy Savings Goals and Secretary Locke Announces Recovery Act Investments to Expand Broadband Internet Access

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**Department of Energy Announces \$28 Million to Support State Efforts to Increase Energy Retrofits and Develop State Energy Savings Goals**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced that up to \$28 million in funding is available to help states lower the cost and increase the availability of energy efficiency retrofits. These programs will reduce energy use and save money for families and businesses across the country.

The funding opportunity, administered by DOE's State Energy Program, will also assist states in developing the necessary policy and program frameworks to stimulate investment in cost-effective, long-term energy efficiency deployments, especially in states that do not currently have aggressive energy savings goals in place.

This competitive funding opportunity is targeted to State Energy Offices (SEO). In the applications, SEOs are encouraged to partner with market participants, including other SEOs, public utility commissions, utilities, program sponsors, trade organizations, financial institutions, educational institutions, retailers, manufacturers, and/or other organizations.

The funding opportunity includes two areas of interest:

**Strengthening Building Retrofit Markets:** The Department plans to make up to 10 awards between \$2 million to \$5 million each for initiatives that significantly increase the number of commercial and residential building retrofits in a state or other defined market. States are encouraged to partner with other market participants to leverage resources and coordinate actions, with goals of enhancing the building retrofit market and developing innovative financing programs and strategies.

Applicants must demonstrate a comprehensive and sustainable approach to providing retrofits in a defined region or market. The State Energy Program is seeking projects that will overcome traditional barriers to the broader deployment of retrofits, such as consumer access to information and up-front costs of the investments. By 2013, selected projects should achieve and sustain a goal of retrofitting 2% of the buildings in the defined market every year.

The Department expects to select and award cooperative agreements by September 30, 2010.

**Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action Awards:** The Department plans to make up to 8 awards of between \$250,000 and \$700,000 each for projects that develop energy-saving policy goals in states that do not currently have strong energy efficiency programs in place. To be selected, states must demonstrate that they will undertake a viable, collaborative process to develop aggressive state-wide energy savings goals and then design and implement energy efficiency programs to achieve those goals. State Energy Offices are encouraged to partner with other SEOs and market participants in order to leverage resources and funding.

The Department expects to select and award cooperative agreements by September 30, 2010.

Applications are due to the Department of Energy by May 24, 2010.

### **Secretary Locke Announces Recovery Act Investments to Expand Broadband Internet Access and Spur Economic Growth**

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke announced on April 26, 2010 nine American Recovery and Reinvestment Act investments to help bridge the technological divide, boost economic growth, create jobs, and improve education and healthcare across the country. The investments, totaling more than \$114 million in grants, will increase broadband access and adoption in more than a dozen states. The grants will fund projects that lay the groundwork to bring enhanced high-speed Internet access to thousands of households and businesses and link hundreds of schools, hospitals, libraries, and public safety offices to the information superhighway.

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the Recovery Act, provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

The announcement marks the final grant awards from the first round of BTOP applications. All told, NTIA awarded 82 BTOP grants worth \$1.2 billion that will expand broadband access and

adoption through projects in a majority of states and territories. A total of 45 states and territories will be affected by this round of BTOP grants. NTIA recently began reviewing second round applications with the goal of making the first round two grant announcements this summer.

**Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) First Round Grants for Texas:**

Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$3,366,188 Loan/\$10,098,562 Grant
PRIDE Network, Inc. (Will serve Burkburnett and Iowa Park, TX)	\$12,811,071 Loan/\$6,309,931 Grant
PRIDE Network, Inc. (Will serve rural communities in South Plains region)	\$22,720,551 Loan/ \$21,829,549 Grant
Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$40,093,153 Loan/ \$38,520,868 Grant
Wes-Tex Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$16,891,875 Loan/ \$16,891,875 Grant
XIT Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$0 Loan/ \$3,065,440 Grant
Texas Total	\$95,882,838 Loan/ \$96,716,225 Grant

**To view BTOP Second Round Applications please visit:**

[http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BIP\\_Round2\\_Infrastructure\\_Application\\_Directory.pdf](http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BIP_Round2_Infrastructure_Application_Directory.pdf)